

Application No.: 09/986,468  
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0282431

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A vulcanized rubber compound comprising precipitated silica having the following physico-chemical properties:

BET surface area:	35 <u>m</u> <sup>2</sup> /g to 350 <u>m</u> <sup>2</sup> /g;
BET/CTAB surface area ratio:	0.8 to 1.1;
pore volume, PV:	1.6 <u>ml/g</u> to 3.4 <u>ml/g</u> ;
Sears value (V <sub>2</sub> ):	6 to 20 <u>ml/ml/(5 g)</u> ;
average aggregate size:	250 <u>nm</u> to 1500 <u>nm</u> ;
CTAB surface area:	30 <u>m</u> <sup>2</sup> /g to 350 <u>m</u> <sup>2</sup> /g;
DBP volume:	150 <u>ml/100 g</u> to 300 <u>ml/100 g</u> ;
V <sub>2</sub> /V <sub>1</sub> by Hg porosimetry:	0.19 to 0.46; and
DBP/CTAB:	1.2 to 3.5.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 7, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 11  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 9, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .